



# NEWS RELEASE

## PRESS OFFICE

---

**Release Date:** October 19, 1998

**Contact:** D.J. Caulfield (202) 205-6740

**Release No:** 98-92

**SBA News Releases:** [www.sba.gov/news/](http://www.sba.gov/news/)

## ***SBA's ALVAREZ, IRS's ROSSOTTI ANNOUNCE COOPERATIVE 'Y2K COMPUTER BUG' MAILING***

**WASHINGTON** – U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) Administrator Aida Alvarez and Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Commissioner Charles Rossotti announced today a targeted mailing that will give 6.5 million businesses steps they can take to deal with the computer problem linked to the Year 2000, the so-called Y2K bug. The announcement is part of "National Y2K Action Week," which begins today and runs through Friday.

**"Today, and for the balance of this week, one question should be on the mind of small business owners everywhere,"** said Administrator Alvarez. **"Are You Y2K OK? No one can afford to ignore the challenge posed by the Y2K computer bug. It is a serious concern. That's why I'm pleased to be here with Commissioner Rossotti to announce one more tool that the federal government is creating to help fight the bug."**

SBA and IRS cooperated in producing a special Y2K notice for the next edition of the *SSA/IRS Reporter*, which will be mailed to 6.5 million businesses throughout the country. The notice provides a basic description of the Y2K challenge and resources that business owners can use to counter the problem. In addition, the IRS Internet homepage will highlight a link to SBA's Y2K homepage, which has proven to be a welcome source of useful small business information.

**“Small business owners must start now to make sure that a Y2K problem does not become a tax problem,”** said Commissioner Rossotti. **“Many businesses use computers to maintain their books and receipts. By making their systems Y2K compliant now, businesses can ensure that this information is protected and available later when it is time to file their tax returns.”**

**-more-**

## **98-92 / Page Two**

The federal officials made their announcement while visiting ISI Professional Services of Washington, D.C. This small business used information obtained from the SBA's Y2K homepage to cure its own Y2K problems. It now offers other firms Y2K services to achieve Year 2000 compliance.

During Y2K Action Week, the SBA's district offices and resource partners will hold nearly 250 Y2K educational events, and by the end of the month that number will rise to 450. A complete listing is available at Error! Bookmark not defined.

The SBA has three ways the public can obtain current Y2K information. These include:

1. SBA's Y2K Internet home page at ***www.sba.gov/y2k/***
2. SBA's toll-free Answer Desk at **1-800-U-ASK-SBA** (1-800-827-5722). Answer Desk staff will route callers to the best sources of Y2K information.
3. SBA's fax-back system.

### **To use the fax-back system:**

- **Call this toll-free number: 1-877-RU-Y2K-OK (1-877-789-2565).**
- **Make your selection from a menu.**

- **Within minutes, you'll receive a fax targeted to your specific Y2K needs.**

SBA's Y2K Fax-Back is available 24-hours-a-day.

# # #